LONGSIGHT NEWS.

4p NO.9 APRIL-MAY 76

Pete McInnes and Albert Bradley laying the health centre's ICI pearldeck roof. How long will it last? "Oh,...years and years".

The "health centre" under construction on Stockport Rd is intended to serve 20,000 people in the area. But the 9 doctors changing from their private surgeries to go in there are taking with them 21,000 patients on their panels! The centre will also look after the health during school hours of 6,500 pupils in Longsight It will have 2 nurses, a treatment room, a chiropody room, dental equipment, a baby clinic and child and school health clinics, eye and ear testing and speech therapy. Longsight will specialise in speech therapy.

The basic purpose of the centre is to serve the community with a complete selection of health care and education (publicizing information on health and disease). Health Centres were set up under the 1946 National Health Service Act. The nearest one to Longsight is the Brunswick St centre which specializes in dental treatment. The centre under construction on Stockport Rd is expected to be built by March of next year.

Many would feel that this is the time for the 21,000 registered patients (and the school students) to know what is intended for the centre, and for them to decide what services they want, and begin to take responsibility for the success of the centre and its continued growth.

GPs WANTED

As an example: around the Langport Av (Devonshire St) end of the new estate, a lot of elderly people are rehoused. Some have expressed their need for a doctors surgery locally. Since they have no way of pressurizing for this, being a powerless, and from an economic point of view an unimportant section of society they probably won't get a local GP especially in the face of the health centre. So for the next year they'll have no local GP and even when the health centre opens will it suit them to travel the ¾ mile to where its situated, and cross and recross Stockport Rd? Here's what Mr Ferbuyt of the M/c area Health Authority said when questioned on this: "It wouldn't arise. If they couldn't get to the centre somone would go to them. They'll even be able to get dental and chiropody treatment at home.

As for the community having a say in the centre we consult the Community Health Council, they are the voice of the local community."

Longsights Community Health Council is based at St Mary's hospital, Oxford Rd. We asked a Mr Faulkner there whether the new Longsight Centre would work well for the elderly people in Langport Av and told him about the proposed home visits sysem described above. He said he'd rather not comment on that.

PATIENTS' COMMITTEE

We read Mr Faulkner the following description about another area: *"To encourage users to take part in running their service, a general meeting is called from which is elected a patients committee, and a series of lectures or films about health is organised. The patients committee meets with the Health Centre team of doctors, nurses etc every 5 or 6 weeks and discusses immediate problems such as doctors rota arrangements, appointment systems, health education etc."*

Mr Faulkner said he could not comment on behalf of the Community Health Council because the idea of a patients committee hadn't come up yet. *"But we'd be in favour of anything which increased the interest of local people in the health service. My personal*

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ADVICE CENTRE
NEWS FROM 113 HAMILTON RD

This month the Advice Centre has made its first threat of legal action against a landlord and against the Corporation on behalf of a tenant who has continued difficulty in getting the landlord to keep the house dry and to replace rotten window frames. The Public Health Inspector (now called Environmental Health Officers) have called several times over the last few years and sometimes they have managed to get the landlord, whose agent is Mr Hoyle of Sherlock and Williams, to do a bit of repair work. Despite that the list of repairs which we made out and sent to the Landlord and the Town Clerk was a long one, and they were things which legally can be called a Statutory Nuisance ie. they cause dampness etc. and are a danger to health. In our letter to the landlord and the Town Clerk we pointed out that under section 99 of the Public Health Act 1936 the local authority has a duty to abate (stop) all statutory nuisances in its area and we told them if nothing was done within 28 days we were prepared TO TAKE A SUMMONS OUT AGAINST THE TOWN HALL FOR FAILING TO DO ITS DUTY.

Already the house in Campbell Rd has been visited by several Town Hall officials and some work has started, but if it isn't all done to the tenants' satisfaction we will go ahead with the summons. This type of action is open to any tenant, whether private or council.

CASH PROBLEMS

The advice centre has always held meetings to discuss the problems that have come up and any further action we can take to assist people. These are open to anybody who would like to take part in our activities even if they cannot do the rota. At the same time of course any confidential matters are kept confidential. Meetings are in the Advice Centre 8.00pm Mondays.

The Advice Centre is now open all day Monday till 7.30pm and Thursday 2 - 4pm so if you can spare any time do drop in to see if you can help or we can help you.

Cash, as usual, is very short; to raise money we collect newspapers, also any second-hand goods especially clothes and furniture. We are having 2 discos, one at Manchester Polytechnic Union, Cavendish St, Wed 31st March. The other is at the West Indian Centre, Carmoor Rd on April 30th

PLEASE SUPPORT US

HEALTH CENTRE contd from P.1

viewpoint is that it should be done along the lines of a patients committee as you describe. I'd imagine our council would be very interested to support any move towards giving patients a say in the service. We know patients committees do exist in health centres, for example in South Wales, and they work"

Mr Faulkner has already spoken with the Longsight Community Forum. Like the Forum; Tenants and residents groups and trades union branches in Longsight are in the best position to open up the question during the coming 12 months, of the community sharing some of the worries of the Longsight Health Centre.

SHORTSIGHT NEWS

PLAYSPACE IN PLACES LIKE LONGSIGHT

Studies of open space provision in inner area wards show that 225 children share each acre of open space compared with an average for the whole city of 44 children per acre and even that is less than the "national standard" for open space.
(City of Manchester Council Report)

£10,640 HAS BEEN ADDED TO THE COST OF THE NEW LIBRARY AND SOCIAL SERVICES BUILDINGS IN THE NEW LONGSIGHT DISTRICT CENTRE. WHY? TO RE-SITE THEM 10 YARDS BACK FROM THE ORIGINAL SITE AND DOUBLE GLAZE THEM. BECAUSE THEY WERE ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO FACE ONTO A QUIET, PEDESTRIANIZED STOCKPORT RD BUT THE COUNCIL NOW ADMIT THE PEDESTRIANZING OF STOCKPORT RD AND BUILDING OF A NEW DIVERSION ROUND THE BACK MAY NEVER TAKE PLACE.

G F Royle, President of the Manchester Law Soci (the solicitors own professional organization which keeps their fees up etc) in a letter to members in July 1975 said *"...our Society will play a prominent part in the formulation of the Manchester Law Centre thus enabling us to retai a large measure of control, otherwise we may fi that work will be done by other agencies and ou profession can only be the loser."*

AN OPEN LETTER

To Manchester Law Centre Group, Manchester Law Society, and the Leader of the City Council.

We've heard that Manchester's first Law Centre to open next door to Tesco's supermarket on Stoc port Road.

* *We know that the committee who are setting up the Law Centre includes 3 councillors, 3 members of the Law Society, somebody nominated by the Citizens Advice Bureaux, someone nominated by the Council for Voluntary Service and 5 others all nominated by the city council.*
In the original constitution those 5 people should be elected by local organisations, from amongst the public likely to use the centre.
* *NO ATTEMPT HAS YET BEEN MADE TO HOLD THOSE ELEC*
A steering committee elected at a public meetin last March has been ignored by both the Law Soc and the City Council.
* *WE THINK THAT A NEIGHBOURHOOD LAW CENTRE should controlled by local people, not by the fee-earn lawyers in the Law Society or by the councillors*
* *Therefore we are asking that those elections be set in motion immediately and that meanwhile th steering committee elected last March and local groups should have a chance to comment on the plans for the building, the brief for the staff who may use the building etc.*

THE LONGSIGHT NEWS GRO

JUNE FESTIVAL - 31st MAY - 5th JUNE

Not many people know that we have a public hall in Longsight which is on the front of Stockport Rd adjoining the L/sight Public Library.

Although fairly old it is a splendid building and in very good condition. It consists of a very large hall on the top floor complete with stage etc., while a smaller hall and rooms are situated on the ground floor with different sized rooms and toilet facilities in the basement.

It is the only hall in the area which is suitable as a community centre which we believe is of paramount importance.

We hope to have a festival in the Longsight area commencing on 31st May and ending 5th June 1976 embracing the fullest possible use of the hall during that week and we hope all the people and the groups of the area will take part.

We hope to invite schools, churches and other agencies active in the area including the Library to participate by staging an event eg. an exhibition of class work, info about the new library and so on.

THERE WILL BE A DISCO, A SOCIAL EVENING, AN OVER 60s AFTERNOON CONCERT, STREET THEATRE, STUNTS, WORKSHOPS ON PRINTING, MAKING VIDEO (TV) RECORDINGS, FACE AND MASK PAINTING Etc.

WATCH OUT FOR THE PROGRAM DETAILS

A steering committee was elected in January to try and get the hall made into a community centre for Longsight and has contacted local councillors,

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CLORIUS - REBATES & BILLS

TENANTS MEET COUNCIL

Some of the tenants on the new estate who received £15 or £30 refund from the electricity charges in their rent, told a Longsight News seller that they agreed with the Clorius Meters. "Of course I've been careful about saving heat" one said. But a woman who received a £9 refund still wasn't happy with them. "I know I got £9 back but they don't make sense. The meter in the hall registered 5 Although the heat's always switched off. The one in the living room registered 10 although that's where we eat,, dry clothes, etc. I didn't agree with all those protests but now I know better" she said.

(Photo by East M/c Reporter, 47p)

The meters were read in 330 houses and they show that out out of 86 one bedroom flats (old and single people) 70 will get a refund. In the 2 and 3 bed houses slightly more than one in every 3 tenants were billed for an additional amount. The other 2 in every 3 got a refund. The biggest blow fell on the 4 bedroomed houses where 60% had to pay out at the end of the year. Half of the 27 houses in this group face a bill of £30 or more. They've been paying £3.24 a week in their rent for electricity but even that's going up.

FUEL PRICES GO UP

The Housing and Treasury Depts at the Town Hall want to put weekly fuel charges up on the estate. Increases range from an extra 79p a week for one bedroom flats (making the new rate £2.64 a week) to an increase of £1.13 a week for 2 bedroom houses, £1.35 a week for 3 bedrooms, and an increase of £1.36 weekly for 4 bed houses bringing the weekly charge there to £4.60.

COUNCIL TO TAKE OVER?

The tenants picketed the town hall (photo) when the Housing Committee under chairperson Alan Roberts met in February. Inside, the councillors grumbled about Clorius and said the Town Hall should take over the meter- reading and told the town hall officials to look into it. Cllr Pat Paget revealed that out of 88 houses in Moss Side or Longsight which had come vacant during the previous 10 months Clorius had read only 1 meter although they'd been notified about the lot. Alan Roberts grudgingly agreed to meet the tenants although he still hinted about outside trouble-makers (especially in Beswick!), and about how pleased tenants in Bristol were who had Clorius meters.

He met with the tenants on 9th March. Roberts told them the council wasn't prepared to consider removing the meters. "Our experts are prepared to meet you" said the council people. "No ta" said Ken Strath new secretary of the tenants. "You've got our technical reports, we've given you all our experts information, another meeting would only be a talk-shop and delay us further."

Before leaving, the tenants hinted about contacting the Ombuds-person.

IN DEMAND

Since their famous revealing report on Clorius Meters was described in New Scientist, copies have been asked for by

1. Ernest Haseler, one-time adviser on District Heating to the government, now retired. Haseler is supposed to know what he's talking about. He told them that following investigations by the French Govt, Clorius-style metering could well be kicked out all over Europe.
2. The Dept of Trade and Industry, London
3. Ronald Bartlett, civil engineer and councillor in Ashby de la Zouche, Leics. They've got 2 Clorius schemes and they're worried.
4. The National Heating Council, an independent body "who agree entirely with everything" in the Longsight Tenants reports. "Clorius meters can't compare with gas or electric meters. We think Clorius may have a case to answer under the 1968 Trades Description Act."

On Jan 10th the Anson tenants/residents association held their Christmas party, with members and invited OAP guests, 50 people sat down to a 3 course meal of soup, Ham Salad, trifle, pie and ice cream with plenty of tea and cakes. The highlight of the evening was a visit from the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Dame Kathleen Ollerenshaw, who came in to wish everyone a happy new year. She was presented with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the tenants assoc. by the oldest lady in the room. Mrs Ada Harrington of Stamford Court, aged 82. The Lord Mayor then presented Mrs Harrington with a tin of biscuits. After the meal dancing and party games followed and everyone had a most enjoyable time, and as each guest went home each was given a small present.

Sterling work done at the "kitchen sink" from councillors Muriel Pierce and Shirley Tucker, greatly appreciated by the committee.

BEXHILL DRIVE

Residents of the Stamford Rd/Bexhill Drive areas are still in a limbo of "will we won't we" be modernized; the last letter on the subject, 4 months ago, was that they would be started in March or April IF finance was available; quite a few of the tenants are of the opinion that they should be puuled down, not modernized.

Meanwhile one elderly couple on Bexhill Drive who have been living in very cold and very damp conditions (both arthritis sufferers), reported the damp to Mr Belshaw at the Area Office (Phone no. 224 2867). They had a long wait, but now they have new damp proof courses in and the rotten oilcloth was replaced free.

THE SAGA OF STAMFORD COURT

by T.NEWALL.

Phoned Mr Belshaw at tenancy office Monday 16th Feb regarding leak in cylinder cupboard and asked that this be treated urgently as the floor of the cylinder cupboard was flooding with water.

Plumber called following day and said it was due to condensation and seemed inclined to dismiss the matter although he did agree that it was severe. At this point I stated thet we were 12 months in the building and that we never had it as bad as it was now and that I suspected there was a leak somewhere, and I asked that a casing inside the cupboard be opened up in order to expose pipes which were hidden from view.

At this the plumber stated that a joiner would be needed in order to strip the casing and that he would report back to the yard and ask the yard foreman to come and have a look.

WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE.

Despite the fact that my wife and I waited in in turns in case someone called, nobody came. I again phoned Mr Belshaw on the 18th Feb and told him the problem was still urgent and I was told the matter was being attended to.

Still no result, I wrote to Mr Belshaw on 24th Feb and pointed out that the water on the floor of the cylinder cupboard was now seeping onto the back of the cupboard in which the electric storage heater was installed and that obviously it was not to my advantage alone that this defect be put right as the surrounding walls were being affected. I also called attention to the fact that we had to put down sheets in the cylinder cupboard every night to absorb the water. And this is no joke as my wife and I are not youngsters and we both suffer from arthritis.

Not receiving any reply to my letter - and with visions of another weekend mopping up I phoned the emergency service on Sat afternoon and 2 men came and ripped out the casing and found a cracked disposal pipe which was causing all the trouble.

We are not unreasonable people. But we have been put to a lot of inconvenience and this leaves some questions to be asked.

Mr Newall has also discovered that it is much cheaper in his flat to buy an ordinary 2-bar electric fire and use that, and switch off the storage heater that goes with the flat. The storage heaters are claimed to be cheap because they use the off-peak white meter tariff, but in fact you lose out because you have to have them on all night, regardless of how much heat you will need the following day.

FLUVENT

8th Mar
The Fluvent factory is in the last stages of packing up and going to Liverpool ending a run of 75 years at Newton Av, Longsight. The closedown coincides with the retirement of one worker who has been with the firm 50 years!

There is still some confusion about how good a deal the closedown was for the 250 workforce - half of whom were men. Workers were upset by a report in the last Longsight News that Mr Watson the sales manager claimed that all the workers had been offered jobs in Liverpool or at other GEC sites. Factory Manger Mr Humphries wouldn't put it exactly like that:

"WE TOLD THE FOREMEN"

"We let it be known, through foremen for example, that if anyone wanted a job at Liverpool they would get it and be paid a little more. If any worker wanted a job with other GEC firms (Openshaw, Salford or Old Trafford) they'd have got it. About a dozen have gone to these sites, and about 2 dozen including most of the management, sales and all the technical staff are going to Liverpool. If workers moved to another GEC site of course they wouldn't get redundancy pay and for some workers this was worth a 4-figure sum. They've been able to go to a new job with a good lump sum from us. I think we've parted on the best of terms. Workers who've left have been able to look and say it was inevitable but it was fair."

According to the workers, E J Sims Gen Manager of English Electric who closed Fluvent said in a letter in November that some vacancies would occur at Liverpool and they would be filled by transfers from other sites. In any case he said vacancies would be advertized on the notice-board in the usual way. By mid Jan none had been advertized although some redundancy notices had gone out a week earlier.

WOMEN WON'T GO

Whatever the truth about jobs being offered some workers have found jobs locally - at Reynolds, Faireys, ICL in Gorton, about a dozen in GEC Openshaw and 1 or 2 at GEC Trafford and Ferrantis. Fluvent Manager Humphries failed to persuade any of the female staff to go to Liverpool on either a temporary or a permanent basis to train women there. He thinks its due to family ties, although there was some strong feeling of unwillingness to go on a temporary basis to train workers on the new site.
The firm in its Liverpool home will need only 150 workers (English Electric will do some of the preparation work and FLUVENT will assemble) and so with 25 from Longsight 100 workers have to be recruited there.

Was it inevitable that FLUVENT should close?
After a sensational incident in 1973 when over £100,000 went astray and FLUVENT changed its accountants, GEC bought the ailing company in mid 74. The purchase money of over £½ million helped to pay off overdrafts but the firm was again near bankruptcy in 75 when GEC announced the move to Liverpool.

Mr Humphries denied that GEC bought FLUVENT in the first place because FLUVENT's trading loss could be offset against GEC's profits and help to cut down on GEC's tax bill.

"We have a unique product at FLUVENT (they make very powerful industrial fuses up to 1200 amps!) and GEC wanted that"

FUSEMAKERS FINALLY BLOW

After 7 years press-setting for FLUVENT

Arthur Holland was among a handful of people retained to pack the machines for Liverpool

ASSET STRIPPING?

GEC also got the machinery and the land in Newton Av. The machinery is going to Liverpool, the land is now up for sale. This method of buying out a sick firm and then closing it down is called "asset-stripping". It will be interesting to see whether the land and buildings are bought for another factory (which is needed in Longsight) or by the Corporation perhaps for community use? The canteen and social club could be used as community buildings but the rest is old and might need rebuilding.

DANGEROUS CROSSING?

Have we to wait till an accident occurs? Is it not time, that a pedestrian crossing was constructed on Wilmslow Rd directly in front of Brighton Grove?

This would help children and other people to cross to the entrance gates of Platt Fields Park without hazarding their lives. The traffic is constantly increasing on Wilmslow Road and Brighton Grove and is the chief route for children from the Longsight area to Platt Fields Park.

Very often children in prams, pushed by older children, have great difficulty in crossing road, due to traffic.
Perhaps interested people would voice their opinion on this subject, and stimulate action by the City Authorities, before the summer holidays, when scores of children make their way via Birch Park-Brighton Grove to Platt Fields Park.

J. P.

MORE History of Longsight

The word CONSTABLE is of ancient origin. It was a term used to denote the Superintendent of the Imperial stables. The Latin word being Stabili. The word continued in use such as High Constable or Sheriff. Manchester as far back as 1600 was administered by a constable, who had an assistant deputy constable and Beadle.

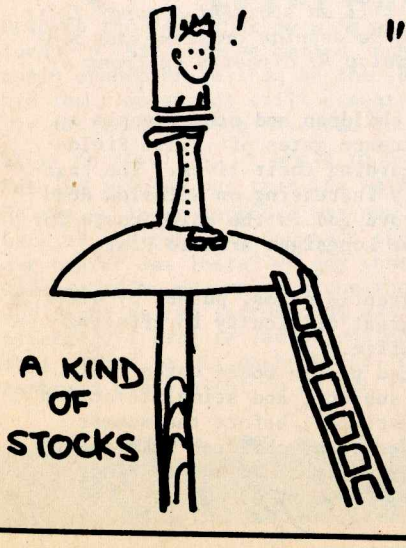
The duties of this constable were many and varied He had to see that various statutes passed by law were carried out, particularly the treatment of "rogues and vagabonds" and "sturdy beggars". The beadle who had a uniform provided at the expense of the ratepayers, carried out the whipping of unfortunate persons who had transgressed the law, for which he received 4d (old).

This punishment was carried out on both male and female, and to quote the Act "until his or her body be bloody". A persistent offender would also be branded by a letter R on the shoulder.

Unfortunately these were times of great distress, many farm labourers had been turned off the land, and many an innocent person travelling the land in search of work, were accused of being rogues and vagabonds, and unjustly whipped and branded. Some interesting items of the constables account are as follows the year being 1642.

To beadle for whipping a woman	4d(old)
To bellman for services to the town	5s 0d
For new ducking stool	£1.15.8

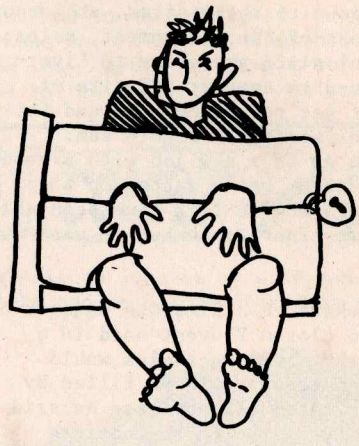
This ducking stool was a form of punishment for scolding women or women of ill repute. They were securely fastened to a chair, placed at the end of a pole suspended over water, into which they were frequently ducked. A Scolds Bridle, a contraption for fastening around a womans head, was another feature for subduing a womans tongue. These punishments were in use in Saxon times.



"WHIPPING POST"

After the sentences were carried out, the constable issued passes to those unfortunates. These passes related that the person holding the pass had received punishment, and that no further punishment be administered by any person; but the passes also laid down that the recipient must leave the town and proceed to another town mentioned on the pass, where it must be shown to that towns constable. There were dire penalties if this was not carried out.

The constable also issued passes and a small grant of money to enable deserving cases to proceed to other places on benevolent grounds. The pass precedure must have been fairly common all over Europe; because there was recorded an item in the court Leet Records of a person presenting a pass to the constable which had been issued in Germany to enable the holder to make his way to Manchester (The Court Leet was a form of Council and responsible for law and recording of expenses, fines and revenues.)



THE STOCKS

Continuing the Jan issue on the long usage of local roads it may be of interest to know that Slade Lane and Burnage Lane was known as Saltergate Lane. This was the ancient way over which salt was carried from Cheshire to Lancashire and Yorkshire.

HOUSE PLANS CHEAP

If your house was in the old Slade Lane/Slade Grove CPO you may be able to get drawings for your house cheap. An architect will charge £15 or £20 but the SLADE LANE ACTION GROUP's architects made drawings of Slade Grove, Clitheroe Rd, Duncan Rd and Slade Lane houses to use at the Public Enquiry. These may be had (you'll need 3) for 16p each plus 4p for a phone call from the advice centre, 113 Hamilton Rd. A builder should manage with just these drawings (he can type up on a separate page the details of the work he will do).

If your builder wants to mark the details on the drawing itself he will need a tracing. This costs £1 plus 4p phone call.

Call or leave a note at 113 Hamilton Rd or 23 Clitheroe Rd.

THE 1-MILLION POUND BET... ON LONGSIGHT'S HOUSING ACTION AREA

THE AREA BETWEEN RAINFORTH ST AND MENTOR ST IS A HOUSING ACTION AREA i.e. IS INTENDED TO BE GIVEN NEW LIFE WITH THE HELP OF 75% - 90% GRANTS FOR HOME IMPROVEMENTS. THE TOTAL VALUE OF PUBLIC INVESTMENT PLUS OFFICIALS WAGES IS MORE THAN £1 MILLION.
THE TOWN HALL HAS AN AREA TEAM OF SURVEYORS AND OTHER OFFICERS AT 40 DUNCAN RD WHOSE JOB IS TO REPRESENT THE TOWN HALL IN A WIDE AREA STRETCHING FROM THE MANCUNIAN WAY TO McVITIES. BUT THE TEAM HAS SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MODERNISATION OF MORE THAN 300 HOUSES IN THE HOUSING ACTION AREA.

THE AREA TEAM

The Area Team held a public meeting at St Agnes Primary School on the 4th March and were very pleased to welcome so many of the local residents and to hear their views.
They are keen to encourage the setting-up of local street groups and it is clear that many of the residents who attended the meeting, and also the very many who have visited the Area Office at 40 Duncan Rd since the meeting, are equally keen to join together to ensure the greatest possible success of the improvement scheme.
The Team will shortly be inviting residents to further meetings, on a street-by-street basis, to discuss the formation of individual groups for each street, and individual invitations will be issued to these meetings.

In the meantime, the Area Office will, as ever, be open during normal office hours and the Team will welcome you there to discuss the improvement of your homes and of the area.

Mike Illidge, Area Team leader.

INTERVIEW WITH MIKE ILLIDGE

This interview took place a few weeks before the public meeting on 4th March
Int = Interviewer MI = Mike Illidge

Int: Some residents say the Area Team is making conditions difficult with high standards and prices so that residents won't be able to improve; and in a few years the Town Hall will pull the area down -

MI: I would refute this suggestion completely and totally. We're here to improve these properties and do our very best to achieve this and help people to achieve it.

Int: Some residents are asking "If my house went on sale today it might fetch 3 - 4 thousand pounds. If it costs £4000 to improve and in a few years I want to sell it, who will give 7 or 8 thousand pounds for a house with about 12 yrs life?
MI: I believe that within the Housing Action Area the overall living conditions of people will improve. Normal trends indicate that prices will rise. If the money is spent on the houses, and they're maintained properly, they'll last for years. At the end of the 5 years (the target time for improving the houses in the Housing Action Area) I hope to put in a report recommending that the area becomes a General Improvement Area, the intention of which is to obtain for the houses a life of 30 years at least.

Int: Trafford Council (some years ago) brought in mobile homes for residents while their houses were being improved and stored their furniture for free. Are you going to do that?
MI: We're hoping to make available houses for decanting. In my opinion some work can be done while the family is in the house.

Int: What say does a tenant have in the improvement of their home?
MI: For private tenants, the only way is if the landlord will discuss the improvements with them. For council tenants, we will discuss the changes with them.

Int: What's the situation regarding selling your house after improvement?
MI: With owner-occupiers who sell within 5 years of getting the grant, the Town Hall has a right to claim some or all of the grant, but it may choose not to do so. There has been no

DON'T PAY FOR ESTIMATES

Int: Some people can't afford to improve to the full standard. Will they be allowed to improve to a lower standard?
MI: Yes, but not if it means the structure is dangerous.

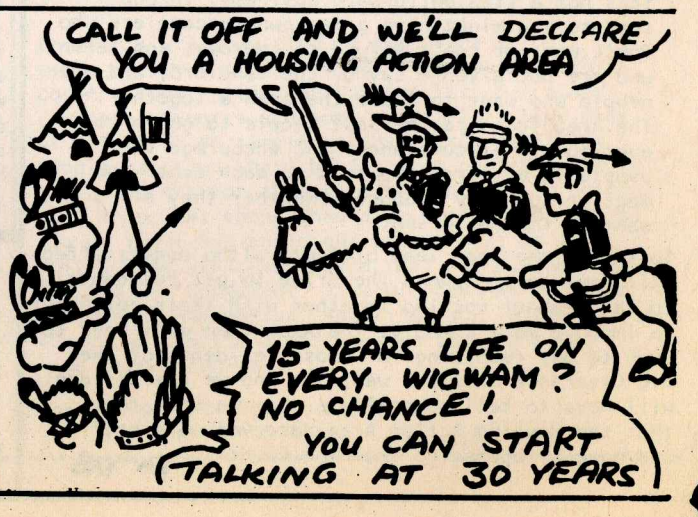
Int: Before a grant is approved, must a person insulate their top floor rooms and ceilings?
MI: No, it can be done during improvements. There is no grant-aid for it.

Int: One builder is expecting a deposit of £200 before he starts work. Will the Town Hall help the owner to put this deposit down?
MI: No, but the owner can get some, maybe all, of it back later in the grant.

Int: Should we pay builders for their estimates?
MI: No you should not. You may have to pay them for measuring your house and doing drawings but not for giving a price on the work to be done.
** *SEE OFFER OF CHEAP DRAWINGS* **PAGE 6** *LONGSIGHT NEWS*

Int: If the builder wants part-payment during the work, will the town hall give it?
MI: Yes, subject to the work being satisfactory.

CONTD. NEXT PAGE


CALL IT OFF AND WE'LL DECLARE YOU A HOUSING ACTION AREA
15 YEARS LIFE ON EVERY WIGWAM? NO CHANCE!
YOU CAN START TALKING AT 30 YEARS

CONTD. DUNCAN RD. DEMOLITION AREA

Int: There's talk of new houses etc. being built on the demolition ground. How can the planners & architects draw up plans without consulting residents who live nearby?

MI: In my opinion it's not practical to go to people with a long sheet of paper and ask everyone to draw lines. Certain suggestions (gardens, garages, playhouse) have already been made. We'll have further meetings after the March 4th meeting to discuss plans with residents.

STANLEY GROVE/ALBERT GROVE DEMOLITION AREA

Int: Since the A6 highway has been postponed what plans are there to use the empty ground now? Will residents have a say in the planning?

MI: The A6 creates a lot of problems. To suggest a simple solution isn't easy. I have a big area and only a certain number of staff. I intend to call meetings in other parts of my area such as Stanley Grove/Albert Grove. I'm using my staff at present where they're most needed.

****

SOME RESIDENTS SAY:—

As we understand it the Government and Town Hall were going to provide enough staff in their Area Teams for them to be fully active in helping us over this difficult period.

Up till now we've been hearing that the Area Team hasn't enough staff. They cannot do a good job in this area if there isn't enough staff, and with £1 million of public money at stake (not to mention over £½ million probably that the residents must find) it should be worth everybody's while to hire some more officials to work in the Area Team.

* Some residents say that Direct Works should come in and do a thorough job, terrace by terrace.

* Some residents have always wanted to leave anyway and the Council could have rehoused them because they deserved it, but instead the councillors ignored pressure throughout 1974 from the old Slade Lane Action Group and the problem remains with us today.

TEAM MUST LEAD IT

It is being suggested that we get together in our terraces or in our streets and we agree with this. But we think someone from the Area Team should come out and visit each house. because, let's face it, it's not a straightforward business. In one terrace you might have a few owner-occupiers who don't want or can't afford to improve, and tenants who are not given a say by the landlord, and even people who want to leave the area altogether. The Area Team are the best people to go in to everybody's circumstances and encourage the people in a terrace to talk to each other and meet in somebody's house - whether they all want to improve or not.

To sum up, the Area Team officers altho understaffed will have to spearhead the drive to get residents to think about working together with their neighbours to improve more cheaply. The Area Team will have to push to get rehousing for those residents of the old Clearance Area who want it; and we the residents will have to tell councillors when we meet them that the Housing Action Area deserves more staff and more co-operation from the Council.

RA MB

FOOD, HEALTH, INFO & ENTERTAINMENT —

GETTING WHAT YOU DESERVE

Many of us grumble and complain about the services we get - how many of us join with others to educate ourselves better about the facts and make our impact felt? The fourth NATIONAL CONSUMER CONFERENCE to be held, probably in Sheffield in July, will be the high point of the work of LOCAL CONSUMER STUDY GROUPS, each of 8-15 people, who will with the help of specially prepared material, discuss, research and formulate their opinions on one or more of the following study topics:

1. Consumer needs and retailing practices - cause for concern?

2. The National Health Service and its consumers.

3. Broadcasting - getting what we deserve?

This unique venture in consumer education is designed to help those taking part to develop their knowledge and skills on practical consumer topics and contributing more to decision-making within the community.

Local organisations such as tenants groups, community groups, etc as well as any interested group of individuals, are welcome to form a local study group.

LONGSIGHT GROUP?

Their findings will be 'fed back' to the National organisation which is an open national, non-partisan project and has the support of a wide section, including consumer councils, co-ops, etc. They will prepare a programme for the national conference, which will be open to all participating members of the local groups.

Anyone interested in joining or forming a group or seeking further information, please contact:

H. JOHNSON
19, RUSHFORD AVE.,
LEVENSHULME.

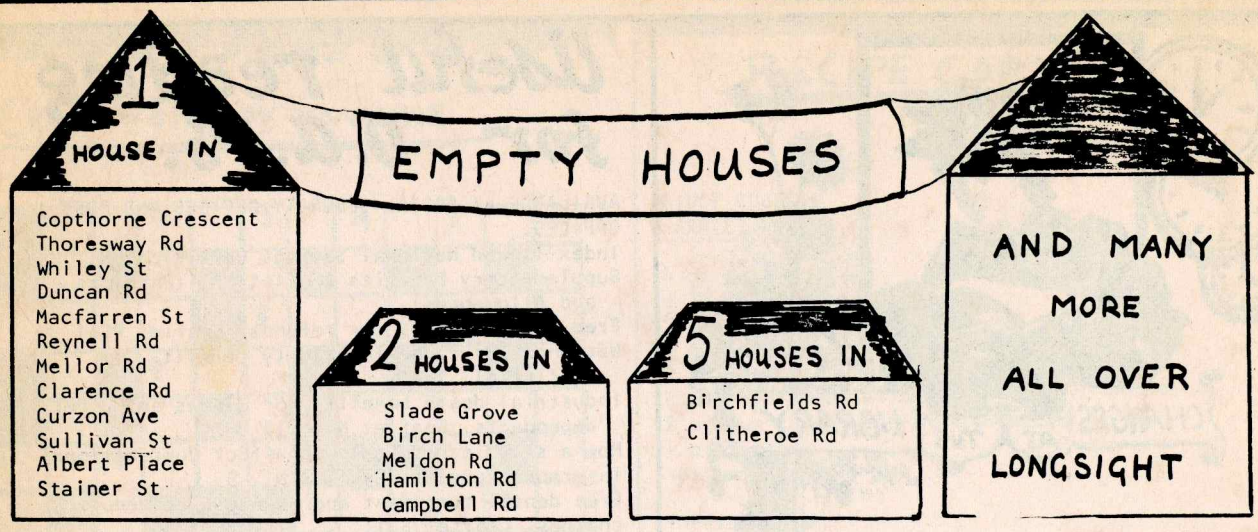
or C/o 113 Hamilton Road
Longsight.

EXTRA HEAT MONEY

If you are on a pension or supplementary allowance and your house is hard to heat, or very expensive central heating, or if you are disabled or infirm, you can apply for an extra heating allowance. Leaflets available from the Neighbourhood Centre 113 Hamilton Rd or enquire at the social security offices on Clarence Rd.

£20 FOR THE PLAYGROUP

COLLEGE CHAPEL PLAYGROUP HELD A COFFEE EVENING AND BRING AND BUY SALE TO RAISE FUNDS ON TUESDAY MARCH 2ND. THERE WAS A GOOD TURN OUT OF PARENTS AND AN ENJOYABLE EVENING RAISED £20 FOR THE PLAYGROUP. THE ORGANIZERS WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THE PARENTS WHO CAME.



We know that the above houses have been left empty for about 6 months or more over the last year. At the same time Manchester corporation accepted 100 families into temporary accomodation because they were homeless and a lot more must be living in unsatisfactory conditions. It costs Mancor an average of £50 a week to keep a homeless family in temporary accomodation.

WHY?

Why are houses left empty? and what could be done about it? Many that we have listed are privately owned. The owners may have tried to sell but they cannot because (a) they have priced them too high (b) council mortgages have not been available and building societies don't give mortgages on old property (c) they can't be bothered.

INVESTMENT

The fact is, houses are seen as an investment, not just as houses to be used.

WHAT? CAN BE DONE

There are legal provisions for the local authority to take some action to encourage owners to sell and/or to buy the houses themselves.

RATES

The 1974 Local Govt Act empowered the council to charge full rates on properties empty more than 3 months, 50% before that. This is done in Longsight and the rating dept say they will take action if they are told about empty houses.

PURCHASE

The Corporation can themselves buy houses left empty. This needs the approval of the Dept of the Environment but so far none of Mancor's applications have been refused. If the owner didn't agree then the council could Compulsory Purchase the property but this takes a long time.

REQUISITION

These measures are obviously inadequate as Mancor claims to be using them in Longsight and yet we have so many houses still empty. Frank Allaun, the Salford M.P. has a bill in Parliament now to allow requisitioning of private houses if left empty. This would mean the houses could be put to use temporarily by people on the council waiting list until they could be used or sold by the owner. This could be a useful step forward if well- managed.

WHY? THE OWNERS ANSWER

A spot check on reasons why houses have been left empty or squatted went as follows:
Clitheroe Rd - mortgage granted but dispute about repairs; Macfarren St - council bought it because of road plans and now they will use it; Whiley St - owner left; Hamilton Rd - couldn't sell because difficulty over the title; Birchfields Rd - structurally unsound awaiting council decision; Slade Grove - selling to Housing Association, money not available till April; Dickenson Rd - owner claims repairs are being done; Clitheroe Rd - owner defaulted on mortgage - council asking too high a price.

Colin Archer & Maggie Walker

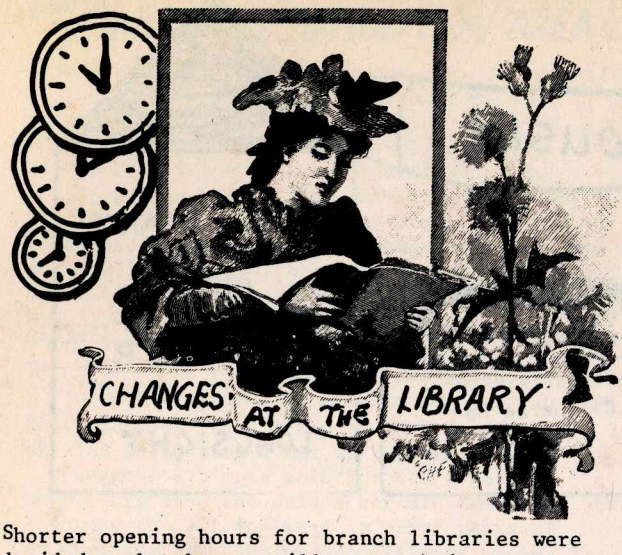
ALL QUIET ON THE SHOPPING FRONT

Amid rumours of a survey of local opinion about shopping in Longsight, and rumours that investor JL Godfrey isn't going to build the giant precinct after all, the town hall opened a corner shop on Shakespear St (although privately the town hall doesn't believe corner shops can be made to pay) in Feb, and in March, BBC Radio 4 did a programme on the Longsight affair without however asking any of the residents groups to join in.

Whatever happens in Longsight one thing is certain: shops are needed as much as ever - on the new estate especially.

Residents are objecting to the plans for a big shopping precinct, not because they want corner shops instead of supermarkets - a number of newspaper reports and some councillors have made it out to be as simple as that. It's not! What people want and what the district centre Group is trying to get for them is a say through an opinion poll into what shops should go where. They can be big or small but Longsight people must be consulted. The District Centre that was planned was too big for Longsight. It would have served most of South East Manchester. Now it's back in the lap of the councillors and officers to come up with some better choices.

Longsight District Centre Group
c/o Dave Shaw, 4 Mull Ave. 273 3003.



Shorter opening hours for branch libraries were decided on by the councillors at their monthly meeting in March.

The proposed times of opening for Longsight and Levenshulme Libraries are:

LONGSIGHT. Mon 10-12am, 2-8pm
Tues Wed and Fri 2-8pm

Closed all day Thursday
Sat 10-12am, 2-5pm

LEVENSHULME. Mon Tues Wed Fri 10-12am, 2-8pm
Closed all day Thursday
Sat 10am - 5pm.
New hours start on April 1st.

The cuts in opening hours are being made by the department in an attempt to reduce expenditure at the request of the City Treasurer.

Please check at your local library during March to see if the opening hours are to be altered.

COMMENT BY OUR LIBRARIAN

The cuts in library opening hours are being made with the intention of saving money by employing fewer staff. All present staff have received assurances that their jobs are secure and that no-one will be sacked. The reduction in numbers will be achieved by "natural wastage", that is, if someone leaves, the vacancy will not be filled. Nevertheless staff are uneasy because although they know they will have A job, it may not be the type of job or in the part of the city they would like. It is obvious that to make sure the reduction in numbers of staff affects all libraries equally, some staff will be asked to move from the libraries in which they work at present to ones elsewhere.

In addition, most of the staff who work in libraries these days do feel a commitment to the work that they do. They realize that they are there to give a service to the public and they want to do this as well as possible. They are not happy when they see the standard of service being reduced in a way which is beyond their control.

Pat Coleman, Longsight Library

Useful reading for O.A.P's.

AVAILABLE AT SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICES AND POST OFFICES.

Index-linked National Savings Certificates.
Supplementsry Benefits Leaflet SB1 (Pensions and Allowances)
Free Prescriptions (or refunds) Leaflet PC11
National Insurance Invalidity benefit. Leaflet N1. 16A
Industrial death benefits for widows and other dependants. Leaflet N.1. 10
How a stay in hospital can affect your National Insurance Benefit. Leaflet N1. 9
Free dental treatment and glasses and reduced charges. Leaflet F.11
Family Income Supplement. Leaflet F.1.S.1
Help for Handicapped People. Leaflet H.B.1

Finally a very good book issued by AGE CONCERN which details your rights, can be obtained price 15p and broad stamped addressed envelope for reply from

AGE CONCERN
NATIONAL OLD PEOPLES WELFARE COUNCIL
BERNARD SUNLEY HOUSE
60 PITCAIRN RD
MITCHAM
SURREY

Also a leaflet "How to work out your rent allowance" can be obtained from City of Manchester Housing Dept, Town Hall M60 2JX

ALL ABOVE LEAFLETS OBTAINABLE ALSO FROM ADVICE OFFICE, 113 HAMILTON RD.

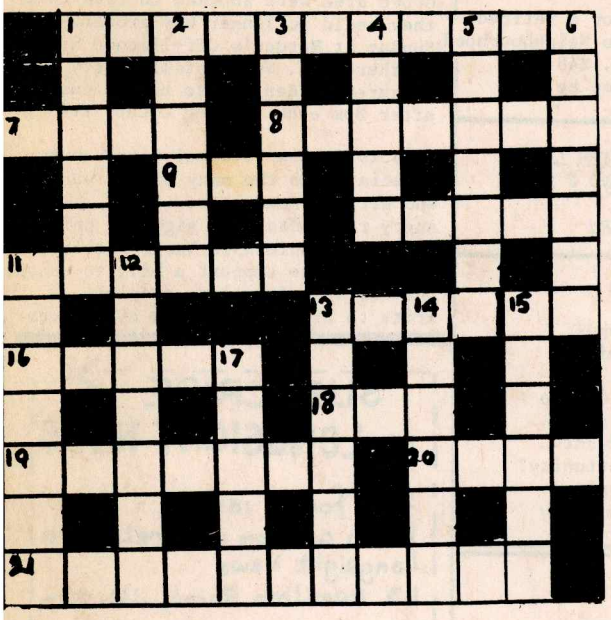
Retired railwaymen and women, are invited to attend meetings on the last day of every month at 11.30 am. in the British Railways Staff Association Club, Store St, off Downing St. The entrance is underneath Piccadilly Station. This will be an oppo rtunity to discuss matters affecting retirement, and a chance to renew old railway friendships. The group recently assisted with petitions organized by the Nat. Pensioners' Ass. protesting against the threatened rise in bus fares for O. A. P.s and school children. This threatened increase has been frozen for 12 months, but everyone concerned will still have to be vigilant.

JUNE FESTIVAL CONTD. FROM P3

and councillors on the Leisure committee, the Cultural and Education committees etc.
Our meeting at the Town Hall was in our opinion very productive and our claims were heard with great interest and concern. It is of great importance thatany groups who may wish to use the hall in the future should contact the undersigned.

Dave Shaw, 4 Mull Ave, 273 3003.
Sec, steering Committee

CROSSWORD BY YVONNE



CLUES

ACROSS 1. It is just not done! (11)
7. Raymond's accent?
8. Aboard he is monarch of all he surveys. (7)
9. Mother of Cain and Abel (3)
10. It kept some in suspense (5)
11. Protective or dressy headwear (6)
13. Unfruitful (6)
16. Lash of a whip (5)
18. The sort of work that spreads around (3)
19. Warning from the night-fliers (7)
20. Row for a binder (4)
21. Removed to another place (11)

DOWN 1. Twice the usual speed perhaps (6)
2. Cry loudly in fright (6)
3. Make a late change of centre (6)
4. Get the bird for having this indoors? (5)
5. Such taste (7)
6. Light container (7)
11. Chopper (7)
12. Woman'sname (7)
13. Ornament for wear (6)
14. There seems nothing good about him (6)
15 Make longer
17. Makes a profit (5)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 1 DISGRACEFUL 7 (RAYMOND) BURR 8 CAPTAIN
9 EVE 10 NOOSE 11 HELMET 13 BARREN 16 THONG
18 NET (WORK) 19 HOOTING 20 TIER 21 TRANSFERRED
DOWN: 1 DOUBLE 2 SCREAM 3 RECENT 4 CAP-ON
5 FLAVOUR 6 LANTERN 11 HATCHET 12 LEONORA 13 BANGLE
14 ROTTER 15 EXTEND 17 GAINS

RECIPE CORNER

MINCE COBBLER
SERVES FOUR

4 oz ox kidney
¾ lb raw minced beef
2 oz lard or dripping
2 onions, peeled & chopped
2 oz plain flour
2 oz mushrooms, sliced
2 medium carrots, peeled & grated
½ pint stock
salt and pepper

TOPPING
6 oz self raising flour
quarter level teaspoon salt
½ level teaspoon baking powder
2 oz butter or marge
milk

METHOD
1. Prepare and cut kidney into small pieces and add to mince
2. Melt fat in pan and lightly fry onion until golden, add kidney and mince; cook, stirring until browned. Stir in flour, then mushrooms, carrots, stock and seasoning. Bring to boil and cook for a few minutes, stirring. Turn into an ovenproof dish
3. Sift together flour, salt and baking powder, rub in butter or marg and mix with sufficient milk to form a soft dough. Knead lightly and roll out ½" thick on a floured board. Cut into rounds with a 2" plain cutter, arrange in a circle, slightly overlapping, on top of mince and brush with a little milk.
4 Cook above oven centre at gas mark 6 or 400 F for approx 30 minutes.

SWINTON GROVE PARK

When canvassing for Longsight News I chatted to an O.A.P. I asked him about facilities for O.A.P.s to meet in his area which is Plymouth Grove (new houses) and Devonshire St. West. He said that some retired people met in the house in which the writer Mrs Elizabeth Gaskell once lived. He mentioned what seemed to me to be a large amount which the group paid, (I have not been able to confirm this) I then asked him why the hut in Swinton Grove Park was not used. He said it had been boarded up from the time the old houses had been demolished.

I then mentioned about the bowling green, he replied that this also was unusable.

I went into the park, and spoke to the park keeper, who confirmed that the facilities had fallen into disuse due to the former users being scattered.

I feel that if we launched an appeal to the readers of Longsight News especially in the Plymouth Grove area their interest would be aroused and perhaps they would appeal for the green and hut to be opened.

Z.P.

— ADVERTISEMENTS —

WHAT'S ON? WHAT'S WANTED?

OUTING TO KNOWSLEY SAFARI PARK

Saturday April 24th
LEAVING FROM CORNER Clitheroe Rd / Hamilton Rd 10am. LIMITED SEATS!

Tickets in advance 50p per child, £1 per adult. SPECIAL FAMILY REDUCTIONS: £2 per family.
Tickets available from Dot Graham, 181 Hamilton Rd after 6pm.

VOLUNTEERS Parents and others required to help with an
EASTER PLAY-SCHEME
for children of all ages:
Easter Monday (April 19th) to the following Saturday April 24th. to be held in the Hamilton Rd area. This playscheme is planned by a small group of parents. More help is needed, even if you can only manage an odd day or a few hours.
You dont need any previous experience and you might even enjoy it!

Contact: Anne Martin, 15 Mentor Rd

JUMBLE SALE
Saturday May 8th in Longsight Public Hall, at 2pm.

Inflatable (big balloon) for your kids to play on. Refreshments available.
IN AID OF THE LONGSIGHT FESTIVAL

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LONGSIGHT COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

FIRST WEEK IN JUNE at the PUBLIC HALL *by the Library, on Stockport Rd.*

There will be events for people of all ages. DETAILS ON POSTERS AROUND THE AREA. ..... THEATRE

DISCO CONCERT PLAYGROUP OVER 60s

GET INTO THE JUNE FESTIVAL!

****

PLAYSCHEME in August

We are trying to get St.Agnes school for a playscheme from 2nd - 27th August.

Please contact us c/o Lynn Wood, 84 Stainer St (Sec, Hamilton Rd Playscheme) or c/o College Chapel Playgroup.

ONE-PARENT FAMILY GROUP
meets every Thurs evening at the Longsight Methodist Church Hall, Stockport Rd 6.30 to 8.30

BRING THE KIDS!

People you could contact if you're interested in the group:
Pam Parry, 1 Sandridge Walk,
Margaret Fraser, 1 Royds Close,
Connie Strongithawm, 3 Elsdon Rd

Other helpers who can mind the kids Thurs nights, do babysitting, very welcome!

MATTRESS WANTED (FREE)

Single matress wanted for a retired seaman. Phone or call to Neighbourhood Centre, 113 Hamilton Rd. 248 6640 during opening hours (see below).

FOR SALE: GIRLS LONG WHITE LACE FIRST COMMUNION DRESS AND 2 TIER VEIL AND HEAD DRESS.
Ms Duffy, 36 Clitheroe Rd

OPPORTUNITY For Asian Women to learn English Language at College Chapel building, corner of Hamilton Rd And Dickenson Rd.
Tuesdays and Fridays 10am to 12 noon. Entirely free of charge. Why not take advantage of this golden opportunity?
Ms M Puri (community worker) Longsight Moss Side Community Project

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IT'S OUR EXPRESS WISH - TO BRING THE NEWS:-

LONGSIGHT NEWS
WEST INDIAN WORLD
CARIBBEAN WKY. POST
JAMAICA WKY. GLEANER
BLACK MUSIC
BLUES AND SOUL
BLACK ECHOES
DAILY JANG (in Urdu)

KEEP WITH THE TIMES AT
HENRY'S
NEWSAGENTS, TOBACCONIST, SWEETS ETC
43 SLADE LANE LONGSIGHT M/C13

PERSIL TOPS
Please collect Persil and Persil automatic packet tops. Playgroups should cash them in for toys from Education Supplies after June 1st. Take them to your nearest playgroup or to the Neighbourhood Centre.

AFTERNOON NURSERY
at
COLLEGE CHAPEL
HAMILTON RD
FOR CHILDREN FROM 2½ to 5
1.15pm - 3.15pm
12 PENCE ONLY - 12 PENCE ONLY

LATE NEWS

ATTACK ON CORNER SHOP
Residents in the Clitheroe Road, Slade Grove area were shocked to find that they could no longer buy groceries on Sunday at Marden's Off-licence in Clitheroe Rd. Worse still, Harry and Margaret Marden had to refuse customers after 8pm each evening except Friday.

This is a blow to local people but especially to the many single workers who arrive home late.
Angry residents have signed a petition to Gerald Kaufman, in large numbers, asking him to support a bill to change the law and allow late opening.
Write to him at the House of Commons.

SUBSCRIBE TO LONGSIGHT NEWS

20p for 5 issues
fill in coupon and return to Longsight News
113 Hamilton Road, with 20p.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

LONGSIGHT NEWS IS PRINTED BY KINDER PRESS, NEW MILLS, CHESHIRE

Fight the Attack on COUNCIL HOUSING

SPECIAL ACTION REPORT by COMMUNITY ACTION

who's behind the attack, subsidies - where the money really goes, co-ops, community facilities, housing market, design and construction, rents, tenants campaigns, the struggle ahead.

in issues 24,25 and 26.
18p + 9p postage each or subscription (6 issues) costs £1.20.
Community Action, P.O.Box 665, London SW1X 8DZ.

NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE
113 HAMILTON ROAD
ADVICE OFFICE - OPEN
MONDAY 10AM - 730PM
THURS 2PM - 4PM
Free information on housing, dole, tenants rights, gas + electric charges welfare benefits etc.

Also good furniture & clothes.
Rooms available for meetings.
113 Hamilton Rd 248 6640

SOLICITOR PRESENT
TO GIVE FREE LEGAL ADVICE
6-7PM ONLY
EVERY MONDAY